

RESPONSE AND REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boone et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,311,240; "Boone") and Andric et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,449,200; "Andric") in view of Irons (U.S. Patent No. 6,192,165; "Irons"), and further in view of Belèc et Al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,651,238; "Belec").

DEPENDENT CLAIMS 11-13 AS PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED REWRITTEN AS NEW INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 18-20

In the body of the Office Action, the Examiner did not explicitly reject Claims 11-13 as they had been previously presented, and did not state any grounds for rejecting Claims 11-13 as they had been previously presented. Therefore, Claims 11-13 as they had been previously presented have been rewritten in independent form, with all intervening limitations, as new independent Claims 18-20; and it is respectfully submitted that new independent Claims 18-20 are in condition for allowance.

Further, for reasons similar to those described below with respect to amended Claims 1, 4 and 8, it is respectfully asserted that none of Boone, Andric, Irons, or Belec, whether considered alone or in combination, anticipate, disclose, teach or suggest all of the limitations of new independent Claims 18-20.

CLAIMS 1-10

The rejection by the Examiner of Claims 1-10 has been carefully considered. Amendments to Claims 1, 4, 7, and 8 are filed concurrently herewith to more distinctly claim the invention. New dependent Claims 14-17 and New independent Claims 18-20 have been added. Entry of the amendments and new Claims 14-20, and reconsideration of the application, as amended, and in view of the following comments, are respectfully requested.

CLAIM 1

It is respectfully asserted that none of Boone, Andric, Irons, or Belec, whether considered alone or in combination, anticipate, disclose, teach or suggest all of the limitations of amended Claim 1. Independent Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a method for selecting a media type format for which to generate generic postage indicia, said method comprising:

displaying to a display device in communication with a computer device, an input field for inputting a secured paper control number input; receiving from a user, via the computer device, the secured paper control number input, wherein said secured paper control number input comprises a serial number that uniquely corresponds to a particular unit of secured paper label stock, wherein the serial number comprises a plurality of characters, wherein a subset of characters of the plurality of characters that comprise the serial number comprises a media type format identifier, wherein said particular unit of secured paper label stock comprises a plurality of labels, and wherein the serial number is visible on each label of the particular unit of secured paper label stock;

identifying a set of media type format information corresponding to the media type format identifier, for formatting at least one generic postage label, wherein the set of media type information comprises at least one of: media type size, media type dimensions or media type configuration feature; and

calculating, according to the set of media type format information, at least one of: a printable size of a generic postage indicia for printing on an at least one label on the particular unit of secured paper label stock, or a print location of the generic postage indicia for printing on the at least one label on the particular unit of secured paper label stock.

It is respectfully asserted that various embodiments of the method claimed in Claim 1 may be useful to provide a user with the ability to input a single input, namely, a serial number, that does double duty as both a security measure for the printing of generic postage indicia, and as a means for identifying a media type for a particular unit of secured paper label stock on which the serial number is displayed and on which the generic postage indicia is to be printed. As described in the specification of the present application:

In the exemplary embodiment of a pre-printed serial number, a form factor identifier 208-1'/208-1 is included as part of the pre-printed serial number 208'. In the exemplary embodiment, a form factor identifier 208-1' is included as the leading 2 digits in the pre-printed serial number (e.g., 208'

on FIG. 4). In the alternative exemplary embodiment, the form factor identifier 208-1 is included as the leading 3 digits in the pre-printed serial number (e.g., 208 on FIG. 5).

Specification, page 13, lines 6-11. Thus, in various embodiments of the method claimed in Claim 1, a user that inputs a pre-printed serial number would have also input a form factor (media type) identifier.

Andric is directed to ensuring authenticity of secured paper. The claims of the present application are not directed to verifying or ensuring the authenticity of secured documents or papers. Rather, as explained by the specification, input of a serial number is required for printing generic VBI, such as generic Internet postage. See Specification, page 8, line 19 - page 10, line 14.

As compared to verifying or ensuring the authenticity of secured documents or papers, the Claims of the present application, such as, for example, Claim 1, are directed to indicating to a computer-based Value-Bearing Item ("VBI") system, such as, for example, a computer-based postage system, a media type identification for label stock on which a value-bearing item, such as, for example, generic postage indicia, is to be printed. The specification of the present application describes, as follows, a need for a user to identify to a VBI system, a media type on which the user will print:

Some generic Value Bearing Items (VBI) systems provide a user with an option of media type, such as various multi-part label sets, on which to print the particular generic VBI indicia, such as generic postage indicia. For example, a computer-based generic VBI system could provide alternative selections of single-feed sheet labels and label rolls, such as through a user interface display screen drop-down menu.... [B]efore printing VBI, a user needs to identify to, in an example case, the generic Value Bearing Items (VBI) system, the particular media type on which to print. One way that media type selection is identified to a system is by selecting from a list of available media types supported by the particular system. Sometimes, lists of available media types are identified with graphic icons and/or text. Once a user has identified to a system a particular media type on which to print, the system, e.g. the generic VBI system, can then generate the information to be printed, e.g., generic VBI indicia, in a format corresponding to the particular media type selected....

Specification, page 2, line 9 - page 3, line 12. The specification of the present application then describes, as follows, a growth in the number of media types that must be supported by the VBI system and considered by each user:

As manufacturers make new media types on which to print information such as VBI, or generic VBI indicia, a system for printing such information, e.g., a generic VBI system, will need to add each new form factor to the respective user interface media type selection feature. As more and more manufacturers make media types on which to print generic VBI indicia, the list of available and supported form factors/media types will become increasingly longer....

Specification, page 3, lines 15-20. The specification of the present application then explains, as follows, a problem resulting from the growth in the list of media types:

Some VBI systems, such as computer-based generic VBI systems, use graphic icons and/or text to identify each media type available and supported by the particular system. A list of available and supported media types/form factors may be presented, for example, in a pull-down menu. As will be understood by someone with ordinary skill in the art, a pull-down menu on any particular user interface display screen is limited in space. As the list of available and supported form factors becomes increasingly longer, some VBI systems decrease the size of displayed graphic icons and/or text in order to accommodate the limited display space of online user interface displays. The smaller the graphic icon and/or the shorter the descriptive text, and the longer the list of available media type options, the more confusing, inconvenient, and/or time-consuming it can be for a user to identify and select the appropriate media type/form factor from the list.

Specification, page 3, line 21 - page 4, line 2.

Claim 1 is directed to, among other things, identifying a set of media type format information corresponding to a media type format identifier that comprises a subset of characters of a serial number that is displayed on a particular unit of secured paper label stock on which a generic postage label is to be printed.

With respect to the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boone, it is respectfully submitted that, as compared to the input by a user of a serial number that comprises an identification of a media type on which the serial number is displayed (such as by having been preprinted) and to which generic postage indicia is to be printed, as recited in Claim 1, Boone discloses storage and retrieval of On-Media Structure (OMS) definitions that are stored on a persistent storage unit 228 by a formatting storage controller 206. See e.g., Boone, Col. 5, lines 12 - 15; Col. 7, lines 27 - 29. As compared to identifying media type information about a medium on which matter, such as generic postage indicia, is to be printed, the On-Media Structure definitions disclosed in Boone describe the *structure of data* stored on, or to be stored on, storage mediums (see, e.g., Boone, Col. 7, lines 27 - 38; Col. 7, lines 39 - Col. 8, line 8).

With respect to Irons, as compared to providing an identification of media type format information corresponding to a media type of a label stock on which the serial number is displayed (such as by having been preprinted) and onto which matter is to be printed, Irons discloses creating a label with a serial number to be applied to a document, so that the document can be later referenced. See, e.g., Irons, Col. 7, lines 50 - 67. In Irons, an Irons' serial number is generated by the Irons system to be applied to a first page of an incoming, existing document and to later be associated with a stored copy of the incoming, existing document. See, e.g., Irons, Col. 7, lines 50 - 67.

Unlike the calculation as recited in Claim 1 of formatting information of generic postage indicia for printing on postage labels on secured paper label stock, the documents in Irons that are to be indexed already exist. In Irons, after an Irons serial number is generated and associated with the document, the Irons' serial number may be input to retrieve information about the document on which the Irons' serial number has already been applied; input of the Irons serial number does not provide information about a media type on which material, such as postage indicia, is to be printed.

In rejecting Claims 1-10, the Examiner stated that Belec discloses a method/system for calculating a "thickness (size) ... of each or a series of collations...". It is respectfully asserted, for the reasons described further below, that the claimed element of "calculating, according to the media type format information, at least one of: a printable size of a generic postage indicia for printing on an at least one label on the particular unit of secured paper label stock, or a print location of the generic postage indicia for printing on the at least one label on the particular unit of secured paper label stock" is patentably distinct from Belec's calculation of a thickness of a collation.

It is respectfully asserted that there is no disclosure or suggestion in Belec, whether considered alone or in combination with the other references of record, that Belec's thickness of a collation is calculated according to a set of media type format information that corresponds to a media type format that corresponds to a serial number input by a user as claimed in Claim 1.

Yet further, Claim 1 has been amended to more distinctly claim "calculating ... a printable size of a generic postage indicia for printing on an at least one label on the particular unit of secured paper label stock, or a print location of the generic postage indicia for printing on the at least one label on the particular unit of secured paper label stock."

As compared to calculating a printable size of a generic postage indicia as recited in Claim 1, Belec discloses "a computer processing means for calculating the thickness of the successive collations from data previously stored in the computer processing means which is indicative of various characteristics of the successive collations." Belec, col. 2, lines 48-51. In Belec, "the computer processing means includes means for printing an indicia, such as a bar code, on at least one sheet of each of the successive collations that is indicative of the thickness of the collations ...". Belec, col. 2, lines 52-56. That is, the indicia printed in Belec contains an indication of the thickness, calculated by the Belec computer processing means, of a collation.

As compared to the calculation of a thickness of a collation as in Belec, amended Claim 1 recites the calculation of "... a printable size of a generic

postage indicia for printing ...". It is respectfully submitted that the recited calculation of a printable size of a generic postage indicia is patentably distinct from Belec's calculation of a thickness of a collation in that the claimed calculation of a printable size of an indicia provides format information for printing generic postage indicia, whereas Belec's calculation provides a vertical thickness of a collation, an indication of which is then "add[ed] [as bar code thickness data] to a bar code already printed on at least the first customer data sheet which contains other relevant information." Belec, col. 8, lines 11-13. That is, as opposed to calculating a printable feature of indicia to be printed as claimed in Claim 1, Belec simply calculates data to be contained in the indicia.

Further, in Belec's calculation, there is a one-to-one correspondence between a calculated vertical thickness of a single collation and the physical collation for which the thickness is calculated. As compared to Belec's one-to-one correspondence, various embodiments of the method claimed in Claim 1 may be useful to provide the ability to calculate various printable sizes for a single indicia depending on the size or dimensions of the media format of a label onto which the indicia is to be printed.

CLAIM 4

For reasons similarly described above with respect to amended Claim 1, it is respectfully asserted that none of Boone, Andric, Irons, or Belec, whether considered alone or in combination, anticipate, disclose, teach or suggest all of the limitations of amended Claim 4. Independent Claim 4, as amended, is directed to a method for determining a media type for a particular unit of secured paper label stock, wherein the particular unit of secured paper label stock comprises a plurality of labels, said method comprising:

receiving from a user, via a computer device, an input of a serial number, wherein the serial number is displayed on each label of the particular unit of secured paper label stock, and wherein the serial number uniquely identifies the particular unit of secured paper label stock;

retrieving from a computer-accessible memory storage, a record corresponding to the serial number, wherein said record comprises a media type format identifier corresponding to the serial number and further

comprises media type information selected from the group consisting of: media type size, media type dimensions and media type configuration features; and

calculating, according to the media type format information, at least one of: a printable size of a value-bearing item indicia for printing on an at least one label on the particular unit of secured paper label stock, or a print location of the value-bearing item indicia for printing on the at least one label on the particular unit of secured paper label stock.

First, for reasons similarly described above with respect to amended Claim 1, it is respectfully asserted that various embodiments of the method claimed in Claim 4 may be useful to provide a user with the ability to input a single input, namely, a serial number, that does double duty as both a security measure for the printing of a value-bearing item indicia, and as a means for identifying a media type for a particular unit of secured paper label stock on which the serial number is displayed and on which the value-bearing item indicia is to be printed.

Further, for reasons similarly described above with respect to amended Claim 1, it is respectfully asserted that the input by a user of a serial number via which media type information corresponding to the particular unit of secured paper label stock on which the serial number is displayed and to which value-bearing item indicia is to be printed, as recited in Claim 4, is patentably distinct from Boone's disclosure of storage and retrieval of On-Media Structure (OMS) definitions. Boone's On-Media Structure (OMS) definitions describe the *structure of data* stored on, or to be stored on, storage mediums (see, e.g., Boone, Col. 7, lines 27 - 38; Col. 7, lines 39 - Col. 8, line 8), as compared to identifying media type information about a medium on which matter, such as generic postage indicia, is to be printed, as claimed in Claim 4.

Yet further, for reasons similarly described above with respect to amended Claim 1, it is respectfully asserted that retrieving media type format information corresponding to a media type of a label stock on which the serial number is displayed and onto which matter is to be printed is patentably distinct from Irons' disclosure of creating a label with a serial number to be applied to an existing,

incoming document, so that the document can be later referenced. See, e.g., Irons, Col. 7, lines 50 - 67.

Still further, for reasons similarly described above with respect to amended Claim 1, it is respectfully asserted that the calculation recited in amended Claim 4 of a printable size of a generic postage indicia is patentably distinct from Belec's calculation of a thickness of a collation in that, as opposed to calculating a printable feature of indicia to be printed as claimed in Claim 4, Belec simply calculates data to be contained in the indicia.

Further still, for reasons similarly described above with respect to amended Claim 1, it is respectfully asserted that, as compared to Belec's one-to-one correspondence, various embodiments of the method claimed in Claim 4 may be useful to provide the ability to calculate various printable sizes for a single indicia depending on the size or dimensions of the media format of a label onto which the indicia is to be printed.

CLAIM 8

Yet further, for reasons similarly described above with respect to amended Claim 1, it is respectfully asserted that none of Boone, Andric, Irons, or Belec, whether considered alone or in combination, anticipate, disclose, teach or suggest all of the limitations of amended Claim 8. Amended independent Claim 8 is directed to a method for identifying to a system a secured paper media type, said method comprising:

- displaying on a particular unit of secured paper label stock a unique secured paper identifier, wherein the unique secured paper identifier comprises a plurality of characters, wherein a subset of characters of the plurality of characters that comprise the unique secured paper identifier comprises a media type format identifier, wherein the media type format identifier corresponds to a particular media type, and wherein said particular media type corresponds to a set of media type information;

- identifying the set of media type information that corresponds to the media type format identifier; and

- responding to an input by a user, via a computer device, of at least the unique secured paper identifier, by generating a printable format of at least one value-bearing item indicia for printing on an at least one label of the secured paper label stock, wherein the printable format of the at least

one value-bearing item indicia is generated in a format according to the set of media type information that corresponds to the media type format identifier.

For reasons similarly described above with respect to amended Claim 1, it is respectfully asserted that various embodiments of the method claimed in Claim 8 may be useful to provide a user with the ability to input a single input, namely, a unique secured paper identifier, that both provides a security measure for the printing of value-bearing item indicia, and identifies a media type for a particular unit of secured paper label stock on which the unique secured paper identifier is displayed and on which the value-bearing item indicia is to be printed.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that because none of Boone, Andric, Irons, or Belec, whether considered alone or in combination with each other or with any other reference of record discloses, anticipates, suggests or teaches all of the limitations of independent Claims 1, 4 and 8, as amended, of the present application, those claims are patentable over the cited references. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-3, 5-7, and 9-17, which are dependent on amended independent Claims 1, 4 and 8 respectively, are therefore also patentable over the cited references.

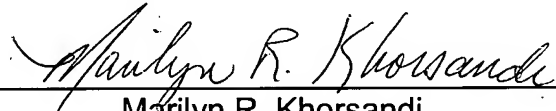
Yet further, because the Examiner did not explicitly reject Claims 11-13 in the body of the Office Action, and because the Examiner did not state any grounds for rejecting Claims 11-13 as they had been previously presented, it is respectfully submitted that new independent Claims 18-20, which include all of the intervening limitations of Claims 11-13 as those claims had been previously presented, are therefore in condition for allowance. Further, for reasons similar to those described above with respect to amended Claims 1, 4 and 8, it is respectfully asserted that none of Boone, Andric, Irons, or Belec, whether considered alone or in combination, anticipate, disclose, teach or suggest all of the limitations of new independent Claims 18-20.

In view of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the invention disclosed and claimed in the present application is not fairly taught by any of the references of record, taken either alone or in combination, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the present application be reconsidered and allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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